

Message Text

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ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 OIC-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 SCCT-01 /090 W

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R 191424Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4906

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 14514

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, UK

SUBJ: LOCAL REACTIONS TO MIDDLE EAST DEBATE AT INTER-
PARLIAMENTARY UNION CONFERENCE

REF: LONDON 14336 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED IPU CONFERENCE IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN MINISTERS AND SECRETARY WARD OF BRITISH DELEGATION TO IPU. ISRAELI MINISTER KEDAR APPEARED RELATIVELY RELAXED ABOUT MAIN SUBSTANTIVE VOTE, COMMENTING THAT IT WAS POLITICALLY NOT A VERY IMPORTANT CONFERENCE AND THAT CONTRASTED WITH OTHER RECENT VOTES IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, ISRAEL DID NOT DO TOO BADLY SINCE THE VOTE WAS 483 TO 215. BOTH KEDAR AND EGYPTIAN MINISTER BADAWI EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SYRIAN STANCE AT THE CONFERENCE AS A FORETASTE OF SYRIAN INTRANSIGENCE AT FORTHCOMING ISRAEL-SYRIAN NEGOTIATIONS AND IN UN.

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2. BADAWI AND WARD STATED THAT ISRAELI EXPULSION PROPOS-

AL WAS NOT SURFACED. BADAWI SAID THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN DEAD SINCE THE LIMA CONFERENCE. WARD SAID THE ARABS HAD EVIDENTLY "TAKEN COUNSEL" AMONGST THEMSELVES ACCORDINGLY; HE ADDED THAT IF A PROPOSAL TO EXPEL THE ISRAELIS HAD PASSED, THE UK MIGHT WELL HAVE LEFT THE IPU.

3. ACCORDING TO WARD, THE UK DELEGATION LAST SUMMER QUIETLY ADVISED THE ISRAELIS THAT THEY WOULD BE BETTER OFF NOT RAISING SUCH A "FUSS" OVER THE INVITATION TO THE PLO; THE ISRAELIS, HOWEVER, FELT THAT THEY WERE COMPELLED BY DOMESTIC PUBLIC OPINION TO DO SO. IN OUR CONVERSATION WITH KEDAR HE VOLUNTEERED THAT THE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THE OBJECTIONS TO THE ADMISSION OF THE PLO ATTRACTED MORE ATTENTION TO THE LATTER AND GAVE THEM THE APPEARANCE OF HAVING ACHIEVED ANOTHER POLITICAL VICTORY.

4. BADAWI CLAIMED THAT PLO LEADER KHALID AL-HASSAN HAD BEEN A MODERATING INFLUENCE IN THE ARAB RANKS, AND THAT, SPEAKING THROUGH THE JORDANIAN DELEGATION, AL-HASSAN WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DELETING THE PHRASE "BY ANY MEANS" AFTER THE PLANK AFFIRMING PALESTINIAN RIGHTS TO "RETURN" AND "RECOVER", ETC. (IRONICALLY, WE FOUND BADAWI SUPERVISING GREATLY TIGHTENED SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN THE EMBASSY AS AN AFTERMATH OF THE SEIZURE OF THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN MADRID BY PALESTINIAN EXTREMISTS.)

5. TYPICAL OF BRITISH PRESS REPORTING ON CONFERENCE WAS TIMES STORY OF SEPTEMBER 12, WHICH REPORTED, APROPOS OF INVITATION TO PLO, "IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE BLOC OF ARAB, COMMUNIST AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WILL DOMINATE THE MEETING...THIS HAS CAUSED SEVERAL DELEGATES FROM WESTERN

COUNTRIES TO QUESTION WHETHER IT IS WORTHWHILE ATTENDING THE IPU CONFERENCES WHEN THE VOTING AND THE DEBATES ARE SO COMPLETELY SWAMPED BY THE COMMUNISTS AND THIRD WORLD

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R 191424Z SEP 75

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 14514

COUNTRIES".

6. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, THERE IS A DEEP STRAIN OF PRO-ISRAELI SENTIMENT IN LABOR PARTY WHERE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERED FELLOW DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REGIME. MILD PRO-PALESTINIAN MOVE WAS BEATEN DOWN AT LIBERAL PARTY CONFERENCE (LONDON 14367) SEPTEMBER 17. UK PARLIAMENTARY ATTITUDES TOWARDS ARAB-ISRAELI QUESTION SHOULD ALSO BE VIEWED AGAINST BACKGROUND OF RECENT PUBLIC OPINION POLLS SHOWING 39 PERCENT OF ELECTORATE FAVORING ISRAELIS AND ONLY 6 PERCENT FAVORING ARABS. PALESTINIANS ARE EVEN LESS POPULAR. IN MOST RECENT (JULY) POLL, TO THE QUESTION ARE THE PALESTINIANS DOING ALL THEY SHOULD TO ACHIEVE PEACE, ONLY 4 PERCENT ANSWERED YES, 57 PERCENT ANSWERED NO.

7. WE UNDERSTAND DEPARTMENT OFFICER WHO ACCOMPANIED
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USDEL IS PREPARING REPORT ON CONFERENCE. WE RECOMMEND REPORT BE DISTRIBUTED TO ADDRESSEES IN PARTICULAR, AS WELL AS LONDON, WITH BASIC CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS. WE WILL POUCH SOME DOCUMENTS TO ADDRESSEES. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN COPY OF DOCUMENT INVITING PLO TO MEXICO CITY OR THE VOTING ON IT.

8. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BOTH US AND UK HAVE TREATED THESE CONFERENCES AS PRIMARILY THE PREROGATIVES OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES INVOLVED. HOWEVER, OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE IN FACT USED THEIR DELEGATIONS TO THE IPU AS DIRECT INSTRU-

MENTS OF THEIR NATIONAL FOREIGN POLICIES. SINCE THE US EMBASSY AT THE CONFERENCE SITE IS APT TO BE INVOLVED IN BOTH A SUPPORTING AND A REPORTING ROLE, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT BRIEF OUR EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE IPU MEETING THERE NEXT SPRING. THE ISSUE OF THE INVITATIONS TO AND STATUS OF THE PLO ARE AMONG THOSE EXPECTED TO BE CONTROVERSIAL AGAIN AT THAT MEETING.

RICHARDSON

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